

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 02477 031811Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 /023 W  
-----087422 031947Z /41

P R 031625Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO USICA WASHDC  
SECSTATE WASHDC 5316

UNCLAS LISBON 2477

USICA

IOP/M, VOA/PE/HAUSEMAN  
USICA FOR EU  
STATE FOR EUR/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PO, US, IMF  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - IMF NEGOTIATIONS

1. PORTUGUESE MEDIA CONTINUED TO REFLECT STATEMENTS, OPINION  
THAT IMF NEGOTIATING STANCE COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT DEGREE OF  
AUSTERITY IMPOSED BY GOP.

2. LEFTIST "O JORNAL" MARCH 31 PUBLISHED THREE ARTICLES  
RELATED TO NEGOTIATIONS, BEGINNING WITH FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE,  
"WHEN THE DOCTOR HIMSELF DOUBTS THE PRESCRIPTION": PORTUGAL  
FINDS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR THE IMF." IN PAGE 2 INTERVIEW,  
FINANCE MINISTER VITOR CONSTANCIO DISCUSSED NY TIMES  
EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT, AMONG OTHER MATTERS:  
"CONSTANCIO HAS SOME HOPE FOR A GREATER FLEXIBILITY  
ON THE PART OF THE IMF NEGOTIATORS, AFTER THE MEETING  
THREE WEEKS AGO, BUT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE  
EDITORIAL OF THE INFLUENTIAL U.S. NEWSPAPER WILL HAVE  
DECISIVE EFFECT ON THE DELEGATION WHICH IS OBTAINING  
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THE LATEST MATERIAL ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY."  
SECOND ARTICLE TRIED TO PARALLEL PORTUGUESE INTERESTS  
IN IMF ASSISTANCE AND ENTRANCE INTO EC, THIRD ARTICLE,  
HEADLINED "NEW DEMANDS BY IMF" STATED THAT "IT SEEMS THAT  
ONE CAN FORESEE THAT THE PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WILL TO  
A SMALL DEGREE BE ABLE TO SOFTEN THE HARDNESS OF THE  
IMF DEMANDS...."

3. WEEKLY CENTER-RIGHT NEWSPAPER "O PAIS" MARCH 31  
PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE HEADLINED "FACING THE  
REALITIES: HUGE LOAN -- A LOST CAUSE; WHO IS TO BLAME  
FOR THE SIDELINING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND OUR  
DEPENDENCE NOW ON THE IMF?". ARTICLE SAID, IN PART:  
"DURING NEARLY TWO YEARS WE LIVED IN THE HOPE OF THE  
HUGE AMERICAN LOAN. AND, LIKE OTHER 'LOST CAUSES'  
WHICH HAVE POSTPONED PORTUGUESE DECISIONS THERE WERE  
THE PROMISES WHICH FOR THE MOST RESPONSIBLE PARTIES  
WERE GUARANTEES ... THE DISAPPOINTMENT WAS NOT SLOW  
IN ARRIVING. FIRST THEY REDUCED THE TOTAL BY HALF:  
FROM 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS THE TOTAL BECAME 750 MILLIONS  
OF DOLLARS. AFTER THAT, THE JOINT OPERATION GUARANTEED  
BY THE U.S. TURNED INTO A BILATERAL AFFAIR...  
WE FORGET THAT , WITH THE WASHINGTON HEGEMONY, THE OTHER  
COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE LOAN MAY HAVE FELT  
IRRITATED ALWAYS TO HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO AS  
FOLLOWERS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRES ... THE NEW  
YORK TIMES RECOMMENDATIONS DOUBTLESS ARE LATE. WE  
ARE GOING TO FEEL ALL THE WEIGHT OF THE ECONOMIC  
CONCEPTS OF THE IMF TECHNICIANS WITHOUT ANY RESTORATION  
OF HOPES OF THE 'HUGE AMERICAN LOAN'."  
JORDAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014